Capacity addition of Thermal Power Projects

*117. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of projected capacity addition to thermal power production during the current year (2005-06);

(b) whether the major thermal power producers including the NTPC are assured of additional supply of indigenous coal to meet the requirements of capacity addition for 2005-06;

(c) whether it is a fact that NTPC and other SEBs are importing large volumes of coal, adding upto the per unit production cost by 145%; and

(d) whether the power sector has made any attempt to get the coal import duties lowered to keep the production cost still lower?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The quantum of projected capacity addition to thermal power production during the year 2005-06 is 3565.92 MW.

(b) There is likely to be some shortage of domestic coal which will have to be made up through import.

(c) It has been decided by Ministry of Power that National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and a few other State Electricity Boards (SEBs) would import about 9.5 Million Tonnes of additional Coal during the year 2005-06. The generation cost of electricity would depend upon the Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) price of coal on the day of purchase.

(d) Yes, Sir.

FDI in real estate

*118. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open up Foreign Direct investment in real estate;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and its impact on real estate market;

(c) the norms fixed for the purpose; and

(d) the time by when decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment up to 100% under the automatic

route is now permitted for the development of townships, housing, builtup infrastructure and construction-development projects. This is aimed at accelerating the growth of the construction sector and expansion of the built-up infrastructure, which would have a multiplier effect on the economy, and lead to spin-off benefits to the manufacturing sector, particularly construction material industries like cement, steel and brick-making. Being an employment intensive sector, it would create employment not only for skilled and unskilled labourers, technicians and artisans but also for engineers, architects and designers.

(c) and (d) Salient features of the revised guidelines are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

FDI in real estate

Salient features of the revised guidelines notified *vide* Press Note 2 of 2005 Series

1. FDI up to 100% will be allowed on the automatic route in townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects (which would include, but not be restricted to, housing, commercial premises, hotels, resorts, hospitals, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure).
2. Minimum area to be developed under each project would be:
   (i) In case of development of serviced housing plots, a minimum land area of 10 hectares.
   (ii) In case of construction-development projects, a minimum built-up area of 50,000 sq. mts.
   (iii) In case of a combination project, any one of the above two conditions would suffice.
3. The investment would further be subject to the following conditions:
   (i) Minimum capitalization of US$ 10 million for wholly owned subsidiaries and US$ 5 million for joint venture with Indian partners. The funds would have to be brought in within six months of commencement of business of the company.
   (ii) Original investment cannot be repatriated before a period of three years from completion of minimum capitalization.

4. At least 50% of the project must be developed within a period of five years of obtaining all statutory clearances. The investor would not be permitted to sell undeveloped plots.

Inflow of weapons from Maoists in Nepal

*119. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media reports regarding Arms consignments belonging to Maoists insurgents in Nepal being sold to the underworld in Mumbai; and

(b) the seizures, if any, made by the police and the steps taken to check inflow of weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 6.2.2005, Mumbai Police on a reliable information laid a trap for unearthing illegal Trading in firearms and arrested five persons from whom they seized two weapons *viz.* one country made revolver with four live cartridges and one factory made Pistol with three live cartridges. However, the investigation made so far by the Mumbai Police has not led to any information showing any links of the arrested accused with Maoist insurgents in Nepal.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on Internal Security made a recommendation in 2001 that a drive should be launched to unearth all unlicensed arms, followed by strong action against the offenders.

Pursuant to this recommendation, the Central Government has asked all the State Govemment/UT Administrations to make sustained and continued efforts to check the illicit manufacture, possession and use of arms and ammunitions and monitor the progress regularly.

Allocation for rural water supply

*120. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Wiil the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation for rural water supply during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) out of total allocation for rural water supply, what is the allocation for Swajaldhara Programme in these years;